



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Prevention Preparedness and Response Program
SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)

CHANGES FROM THE PREVIOUS SITREP ARE DENOTED IN RED

F/V Arctic Sea Grounding, St. George Island

SITREP #: 2

St. George Island



SPILL #: 26459900501

DATE/TIME OF DISTRIBUTION: January 20, at 3:30 p.m.
Information current as of January 18, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Arctic Sea LLC

INCIDENT LOCATION: Northwest side of St. George Island, at 56°36' 23.87"N, 169° 40' 25.72"W.

DATE/TIME OF SPILL: January 5, 2026, at approximately 8:00 a.m.

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED: The F/V Arctic Sea ran aground the morning of January 5, 2026. The US Coast Guard (USCG) reported the potential release to Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) at 11:35 a.m. on January 5, 2026. **On Saturday, January 17th, 2025, the salvage vessel M/V Makushin Bay arrived at the location of the F/V Arctic Sea. Improved weather permitted the launch of a small boat; the salvage team observed an emulsified oil product and a visible sheen stretching east and west from the vessel.**

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: An unknown amount of fuel has been released from the vessel. The quantity of oil stored onboard the vessel, when it grounded, was confirmed by USCG at 50,000 gallons of diesel fuel and approximately 2,000 gallons of lube oil and hydraulic fluid. Sheening has been reported around the vessel from response crews on the M/V Makushin Bay and from the City of St George personnel from the high bluff cliff adjacent to the vessel. The visually observed sheening extended approximately 6-8 miles long and 200 yards offshore as seen on January 7, 2026. The quantity released is unknown. The vessel also has an estimated 7,000 Tanner crab (~11,000 pounds) onboard at time of grounding

CAUSE OF SPILL: The spill occurred after the F/V Arctic Sea ran hard aground on St. George Island, AK.

SOURCE CONTROL: The source is uncontrolled.

RESPONSE ACTION: Deteriorating weather conditions prevented the M/V Makushin Bay from getting alongside the vessel for wreckage assessment. The M/V Makushin Bay is now standing by waiting for more favorable weather (likely several days to a week) to board the vessel. Multiple overflights by the USCG have been conducted to monitor the vessel and observe for sheening. **Salvors boarded the F/V Arctic Sea, finding its bow mostly submerged and decks nearly awash. They placed rat traps and successfully accessed 3 starboard fuels tanks and the portside stern tank. The two starboard stern tanks were sounded and contained fuel and water mix. The stern tank was mainly pure product but the midship tank appeared to be emulsified diesel. Based**

on schematics of the vessel, each tank holds between 3500 to 5000 gallons of product depending on location. January 18, 2025, the M/V Makushin Bay returned to the site, but salvage operations were severely hampered by adverse weather, including 30-knot winds with gusts up to 45 knots. The crew was unable to anchor close enough to the F/V Arctic Sea to commence pumping, and the rough sea state prevented the launch of the small boat.

RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED: The land in the area of the spill is administered by the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Highest concern is the Sea Lion and Seal rookeries Nearest known site, 2 miles west of vessel. Otters may be present in small numbers in nearshore areas. The area is also in the range of Steller's eiders (Threatened) and short-tailed albatross (Endangered). Large numbers of Steller's eiders may occur in nearshore and coastal waters and are susceptible to oiling in these areas. Short-tailed albatross may be present

but are more likely to be found over deeper offshore waters. Sea ducks (e.g., king eiders, long-tailed ducks, common eiders, harlequin ducks, and Steller's eiders) may be present in large numbers in nearshore and coastal waters and are highly susceptible to oiling. Sea Birds (e.g., fulmars, shearwaters, puffins, auklets) may be present in low numbers in winter (100s-1000s) and are at risk of oiling. Beginning in March millions of birds Gulls may also be present in smaller numbers in nearshore and coastal waters and are at medium risk of oiling. Gulls may also be present in smaller numbers in nearshore and coastal waters and are at medium risk of oiling. Breeding and Nesting Birds; A variety of migratory birds, including seabirds and sea ducks, will begin arriving in large numbers (1,000s – 100,000s) on Saint George Island in March to breed and nest. Cliff above the grounding site is an important and high-density nesting area. St. George is home to many seabirds, including the largest colony of murres in Alaska (~1 million birds). NESTING BIRDS are at HIGH RISK if rodents are introduced.

Western Bering Sea Tanner and Bering Sea snow crab fisheries (ADF&G/NMFS co-management) are open and ongoing in waters east and west of the Pribilof Islands. Both fisheries opened October 15; Western Bering Sea Tanner crab season runs through March 31 and Bering Sea snow crab runs through May 31, by regulation. Waters immediately surrounding the Pribilof Islands are closed to pot gear for protecting the Pribilof blue king crab stock (see attached). Nine vessels are currently fishing for Western Bering Sea Tanner crab with effort along the edges of the closure box; continued effort is expected in these areas through March. Six vessels are currently fishing for Bering Sea snow crab; effort in this fishery is generally expected to be farther NW of Saint George Island.

Pribilof Islands golden king crab fishery is open to harvest year-round in waters of the Pribilof District greater than 100 fathoms. The fishery closes when the relatively small guideline harvest level of 130,000 pounds is achieved. No current effort in this fishery but expect effort from at least one vessel in February. The closest directed fishing for golden king crab that takes place relative to the vessel grounding is approximately 30 miles S/SE in Pribilof Canyon.

St. George Island is a rat-free island. Migratory birds, terrestrial mammals, and marine mammals are at risk of predation and disease from introduced rodents. The impact to wildlife from the introduction of rodents to St. George would likely far exceed the impact of oiling from a spill. St. George has prevention kits on the island that may be temporarily relocated closer to the grounding site.

Subsistence groundfish and shellfish fisheries are largely open year-round. Subsistence groundfish/shellfish resources important to the community of St. George likely include Pacific halibut, Pacific cod, black rockfish, kelp greenling, green sea urchin, black chiton, and giant Pacific octopus.

Arctic fox and ermine may be present on St George Island. Foxes can navigate steep cliffs and are known to frequently scavenge along beaches. There is also a herd of reindeer on the island which is harvested for subsistence

There are significant cultural resources on the northern side of the island east of the spill location (Seal Island Historic District / Fur Seal Rookeries NHL), a Paleontological site along the terrace edge eroding into the ocean just east of the spill location and an old historic village site on the bluff overlooking the ocean that may or may not be affected by cleanup

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Bering Sea intense winter storms have slowed down and possibly will pause the salvage operations until spring of 2026. Options for safe lightering of onboard fuel and oils, Overflight monitoring, spill response and salvaging operations are in discussion with the USCG, DEC, and oil spill response company, and the vessel salvage company. DEC will continue to monitor the response actions and review plans being developed for the response and salvage operation. **Given the forecast for continued unfavorable weather, the decision was made to suspend operations and for the M/V Makushin Bay to transit back to Dutch Harbor the next morning, January 19, 2026. MAKUSHIN BAY to stay on stand-by in Dutch Harbor until appropriate weather window becomes available.**

WEATHER: January 20, 2026: Windy. High near 41, with temperatures falling to around 34, cloudy skies, winds SSE 10-20 mph. Tomorrow 37 high and 34 low with pm fog and 20% precipitation.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Henry Vanderbeck, Arctic Sea LLC

SOSCR: Mark Sielaff, DEC

FOSC: CPO Christopher Houvener, SEC W AK& US ARCTIC

LOSC: [Grace], City of St. George

DATE/TIME OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: As situation warrants

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Acting, John Ebel, Western Region State On Scene Coordinator, DEC (907) 451-2102

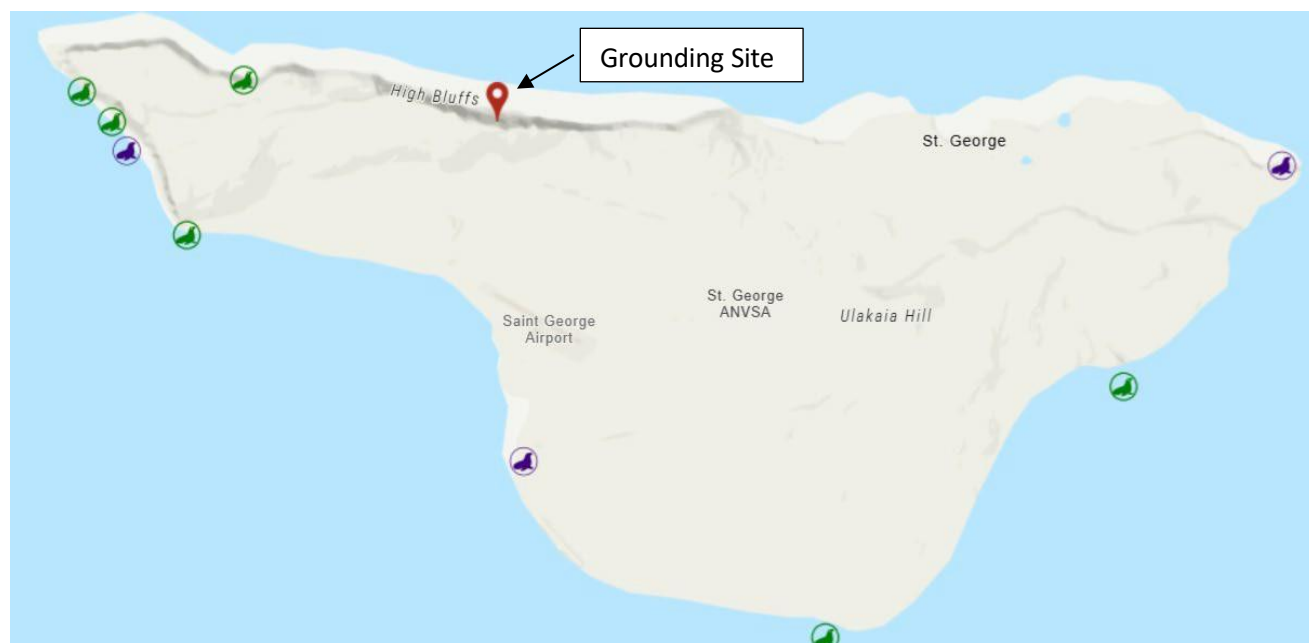
[\[https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/\]](https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/)



The F/V Arctic Sea as seen by work boat January 16, 2026. Photo by Resolve Marine staff.



The F/V Arctic Sea as seen from work boat. January 12, 2026. Photo by the Resolve Marine staff.



Stellar Sea Lion and Harbor Seal Haul-Out Map and Map Legend. Credit: NOAA

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: This situation report was distributed to the agencies listed on the standard distribution list, which includes the governor's office, State Emergency Operations Center, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other state agencies. This situation report was also distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders:

AGENCY / STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
Arctic Sea LLC	Henry Vanderbeck				
Senate S- Bethel	Senator Lyman Hoffman	E-mail	senator.lyman.hoffman@akleg.gov	866-465-4453 907-465-4453	907-465-4523
House 37- Dillingham	Representative Bryce Edgmon	E-mail	representative.bryce.edgmon@akleg.gov	800-898-4451 907-465-4451 907-269-0275	907-465-3445 907-269-0274

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ADF&G	Jeanette Alas	Email	Jeanette.alas@alaska.gov ; Bradley.dunker@alaska.gov	267-2805	267-2499
USCG-Sector /ANC	USCG-Anchorage	Fax	907-428-4114	428-4100	428-4114 (24 hr)
US EPA	Robert Whittier	Fax	Whittier.robert@epa.gov	206-553-1263 or 206-553-1264	271-3424
Adak Port of Operations	Run by Aleut Corporation/Anchorage Office	Fax	info@aleutenterprise.com	562-5444	563-4328
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City of Atka	Luke Snigaroff	Email	cityofatka@gmail.com	839-2233	839-2234
Native Village of Atka		Email	aang@atkatribes.org	839-2229	839-2269
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association	Community Services Department	Email	apiat@apiat.org	276-2700	279-4351
Aleut Corporation/ Anchorage Office		Fax	907-563-4328	561-4300	563-4328
Dutch Harbor Port Director	Peggy McLaughlin	Email	pmclaughlin@ci.unalaska.ak.us	581-1254	581-2519
Unalaska, Mayor's Office	Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.	Email	Mayortutiakoff@ci.unalaska.ak.us	581-1251	581-1417 (court) 581-4469 (admin)
AK Maritime Wildlife Refuge	Steven Delehanty	Email/Fax	steve_delehanty@fws.gov	226-4627	235-7783